

Bits & Pieces

Your Winter, Spring, and Fall Newsletter from the
DPS Supplemental Benefits Program

ASSISTANCE FUND OF THE DENVER TEACHERS' CLUB / VOLUNTARY PAYROLL PROTECTION PLAN

Organized March 23, 1897

1617 S. Acoma Street ✧ Denver, CO 80223-3624

Phone: (303) 377-0222 ✧ e-mail: dtclub@qwestoffice.net

www.dpssbp.org



FALL 2026 EDITION

Board of Directors

Susan Miller, President.....Retired
Catherine Cronn, Vice President.....Retired
Linda Gordon, Treasurer.....Retired
Judy Wilson, Secretary.....Retired
Brian Kennedy.....Green Valley
Robert Mantooth.....Retired
Deborah Graham.....Retired

Office Staff

Pat Smaldone.....Executive Director
Teresa DeRose.....Office Manager
Jodi Johnson.....Equipment Manager

The Supplemental Benefits Program:

ASSISTANCE FUND:

Free use of durable medical equipment for all current DPS employees, DPS retirees, and immediate family members. No membership fee. Funded by donations and yearly fundraisers.

VOLUNTARY PAYROLL PROTECTION PLAN:

Supplemental sick pay of \$60 per days missed from work for employees of DPS due to personal illness or injury. This benefit is funded by active employees' monthly payroll deduction of \$10 per month.

HOLIDAY HOURS – THANKSGIVING 2026 - The Denver Teachers' Club office will be closed Wednesday, November 25 through Friday, November 27. We may be open the Monday and Tuesday of that week, but please call ahead to verify an appointment for picking up or returning medical equipment.

WINTER HOLIDAYS 2026 – The Teachers' Club office will be closed Monday, December 21, 2026 through Friday, January 1, 2027. Please leave voice messages at our office phone number 303-377-0222 to check on equipment availability and if we may be in the office by appointment some of those days.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY – The Teachers' Club office will be closed Monday, January 18, 2027.

Our **HOLIDAY GIFT CALENDARS** will be coming out in the mail to all our retirees in November. This is a popular fundraiser for us each year, and many of you have let us know how useful these calendars are. Be sure to update any mailing address you have with us if it has changed recently. If you receive our *Bits & Pieces* newsletter by hard-copy mailed to you, then we have your correct address. For those of you receiving the newsletter by email, make sure to let us know if your USMAIL address we have for you has changed. We want to make sure all of you get our calendars!

**DONATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE ASSISTANCE FUND BETWEEN
MAY 1 AND SEPTEMBER 1, 2026 AS FOLLOWS:**

T. Joan Aldretti	Ken & Judy Hill	Donald Reeves	Edward Faller
Marilyn Andersen	Catherine M. Kromrey	Anna Ross	Faye Hudson
Anonymous	Diane Lloyd	Mary Ann Ross	Sheila Karsh
Ann Evans	Karen Millsbaugh	Edna Sutton	Melinda Pickering
Edward Faller	Paula Moore	Joan Wamsley	Glenda Rhoades
Mary Ann Gains	Barbara Newby		Antje Sliger
Naomi Graham	AnneKelly O'Neill	Raffle Donations	Jane Spence
Madalyn Henninger	Stephen Parce		Larry Tarver
Elizabeth Hernandez	Tom & Val Parks	Mary Amundsen	
Barbara Hessel	Mahri Reed-Whitney	Clara Campbell	

**MEMORIALS WERE RECEIVED BY THE ASSISTANCE FUND BETWEEN
MAY 1 AND SEPTEMBER 1, 2026 AS FOLLOWS:**

(In Memory of:
Name of Donor)

Phylliss Adams Keith Adams	Eloise & Glenn Leyden Don & Carol Bess	Mary Ann Ross Claudia Deasy
June Bisceglia Dan Nerim	Ray & Jane Humphrey	Eugene Smaldone Don & Carol Bess
Ron & Deloras Bott Nancy Roberts	Glenn Leyden Don & Carol Bess	Donald St. John Charlene St. John
Marva Boyer Henry Boyer	Joyce Marshall Shireen Whitson-Truesdale	Stan & Viola Stekel Ramona Hall
Patsy Butler Shireen Whitson-Truesdale	Herman Motz Don & Carol Bess	Charles Todesco, Jr. Charlotte & Phil Foster
Alice J. Faller Edward Faller	Gunnar & Eloise Nelson Karen Nelson	Joyce Vandever Connie Dineen
Louise M. Garcia Stella Baca	Frank Rauzi Lynne Garramone Mason	Janet Zeyen Ellen Maresh
Nathan Hazzard Shireen Whitson-Truesdale	Helen Redhair Sue Ann Ahlstrand	
Nancy Koepsel Mary Franza	Jennifer Rinaldi Teresa Mendenhall	

TO MAKE A DONATION TO THE ASSISTANCE FUND OF THE DENVER TEACHERS' CLUB CONTACT OUR OFFICE, OR USE OUR FORM PROVIDED.

**HONORARIUMS AND TRIBUTES WERE RECEIVED BY THE ASSISTANCE FUND
BETWEEN MAY 1 AND SEPTEMBER 1, 2026 AS FOLLOWS:**

Tribute to **Susan Brown** – Jean Hatcliff

IN MEMORY

Holder, Peggie S05/07/26
 Leberer, Rosemary A02/02/26
 Link, Loyd W.....07/16/26
 Loader, Peggy A.....02/06/25
 Mestek, Margaret R.....04/13/26

Moore, Paula.....05/09/26
 Peay, William10/15/24
 Richardson, Loretta T.....01/18/26
 Vatne, Gloria J12/17/25
 Ventura, Hope01/23/26

Denver Teachers' Club Assistance Fund Donation Form

1617 S. Acoma Street, Denver, CO 80223

Phone: 303-377-0222

Thank you for your contribution to Denver Teachers' Club Assistance Fund. Your support helps to ensure our ability to continue providing the services you and your family members are accustomed to receiving. Ever vigilant in our efforts to provide you with the latest, most innovative medical equipment, your contributions will also help us to expand our services as appropriate in the expensive and ever-changing arena of medical care provision. Please complete this form to your specifications, and mail it along with your contribution to the address above.

Donor Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

My check no. _____ in the amount of \$_____ is enclosed.

☐ My gift is strictly a donation ☐ My gift is in memory of: _____☐ My gift is a tribute to: _____

Please send acknowledgment of this gift to (amount will not be disclosed):

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

TAX DEDUCTIBLE UNDER SECTION 501(c)3 of the I. R. S. CODE

In order to comply with IRS Code Section 170(f)(8), we will provide you with a receipt mailed to the address you have supplied above, which affirms that the Denver Teachers' Club provided no goods or services in consideration, in whole or in part, for your contribution.

ENROLLMENT for the PAYROLL PROTECTION PLAN for 2026-2027 – additional sick pay of \$60 per day is provided for **active DPS employees**. Applications and Claim forms are available on our website or by contacting our office. If not a member already, check out the opportunity for additional sick pay under 'Supplemental Benefits' in your DPS Open Enrollment brochures, or call the Denver Teachers Club to ask about enrollment during the school year. Enrollment is ongoing throughout the year.

UNEXPECTED BENEFIT FOR RETIRED TEACHERS:

Like most teachers my primary source of income post retirement is from PERA. I did spend some time working outside of the district and just this year applied for Social Security. I mentioned this to my financial planner. He told me about a law (that is not well known) that can greatly increase Social Security benefits to teachers.

Two months ago I applied not only for my benefit per month through Social Security, but also half of my husband's benefit. This spousal benefit does not decrease his monthly Social Security payment. I am now collecting an additional amount in my monthly benefit and was able to apply for a retroactive lump sum.

If you do not ask for this benefit, you will not receive it!

For further information, contact me. Best regards,

Eileen Lowey Sonnenschein, MA

CEO/Founder of Homestay Community & My House LLC
(720) 271-1151

Job Opportunities for Retired DPS Teachers: Hillel Academy

450 South Hudson St., Denver, CO 80246

Hillel Academy seeks highly effective teachers for part-time positions. If you are seeking meaningful part-time work and miss the joy of teaching we might be a perfect fit! Compensation for all positions \$27,000. Ten paid personal days. Hours are 12:15 to 3:45 daily. Instructional days 175-180.

For detailed information contact Recruitment Coordinator: Eileen Lowey Sonnenschein, 720-271-1151

Available Positions:

Grade: 2 Female teacher

Class size: 4 girls (really only 4)

Subjects: Language Arts & Math

Science & Social Studies will be co taught with the 3rd grade teacher

Class size: 14

Grade: 6-7-8 Male teacher preferred

Class size: 14-18 boys

Subject: Language Arts

ECE-8 Floating sub/intervention teacher

Feel free to text me here to begin the conversation and send your resume, references and a short letter of intro to
Eileen@homestaycommunity.com

EMPLOYEES: PAYROLL PROTECTION PLAN for 2026-2027 – additional sick pay of \$60 per day is provided for active DPS employees. Applications and Claim forms are available on our website or by contacting our office. If not a member already, check out the opportunity for additional sick pay under 'Supplemental Benefits' in your DPS Open Enrollment brochures, or call the Denver Teachers Club to ask about enrollment during the school year. Enrollment is ongoing throughout the year.

We would like to give all DPS employees the opportunity to know about the Denver Teachers Club medical equipment available and the Payroll Protection Plan. We often hear from employees that they haven't heard anything about us and the services we provide. With your help, we would like to remedy this by reaching all employees. If you are interested in helping spread the word to your site or school about these available benefits, let us know! Please be sure to thank the current representative at your work site. We could not provide the quality services you have come to expect without our volunteers' help.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT - Call ahead to reserve or return your medical equipment. All entrances to the Acoma Campus are locked. As with most school districts throughout the nation, Denver Public Schools now requires that all outside doors be locked during school hours. This requirement includes the entrance to the Denver Teachers' Club offices. You will need to call our office at 303-377-0222 prior to visiting for any reason. Please leave a message for our equipment manager when you call us to set up an appointment to pick up or drop off medical equipment.

RETIREEES: We work hard to maintain an up-to-date database for our retirees. To continue to assist you with borrowing medical equipment free of charge from the Denver Teachers Club Assistance Fund and to receive our newsletters, raffle tickets and information for our retirees, **keep us informed of any changes to your contact information** so we can update our retiree database.

ARE YOU RETIRING FROM DPS THIS YEAR?

NEW RETIREES: Congratulations and **thank you** for your many years of service to the children of Denver. As a retiree from DPS, you maintain your privileges with the **ASSISTANCE FUND**. You may continue to borrow durable, non-personal medical equipment from us for yourself or any person in your immediate family for as long as you need it, **free of charge**. **The equipment is available to all active and retired employees of the DPS.**

To be added to our retiree list and to ensure your continued eligibility to borrow equipment, you must complete the **DPS Retiree Continuation Data Form** below and mail it to our office at 1617 S. Acoma St., Denver, CO 80223 – 3624. The form is also available in PDF format for you to download from our website – www.dpssbp.org.

*****PLEASE READ – Retirees, if you receive this newsletter at your home email or by US Mail you are already in our database and do not need to complete the form!! If your contact information changes, be sure to email or call us and let us know.**

ASSISTANCE FUND OF THE DENVER TEACHERS CLUB
DPS Retiree Continuation Data Form for New Retirees

As a retiree of the Denver Public Schools, I understand that I remain eligible to use the non-personal, durable medical equipment made available to retirees and their immediate family members by the **Assistance Fund of the Denver Teachers' Club**. My signature below, along with the data I have provided, affirms my request to continue receiving periodic correspondence. In an effort to contribute to the cost savings of the organization, if I have supplied my email address below, I prefer to receive correspondence electronically.

I have the assurance that the data herein provided will be used only for the purposes of verifying my identity and communicating with me and my family. Furthermore, I understand that none of my personal data will be shared with any outside person or organization and that it is my responsibility to provide updated information whenever changes occur.

Name*: _____ Birth Date*: _____

Address*: _____

City*: _____ St*: _____ Zip (5+4)*: _____

Phone*: _____ DPS ID No.*: _____

Email address to receive correspondence electronically: _____

The effective date of my retirement is *: _____ 20____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

***Required Information**

*"Autumn is the mellower season, and what we lose in flowers
we more than gain in fruits."*

– Samuel Butler

"I may be dumb, but I'm not stupid."

– Terry Bradshaw

LINKS: Our web site: www.dpssbp.org

Please see our website for all of our forms, including:

Assistance Fund Donation Form

Payroll Protection Plan Application

Payroll Protection Plan Rules & Regulations

Retiree Continuation Data Form and Changes in Contact Information